

**Continental Fan.** The two-speed AeroFan line of traditional in-ceiling bathroom fans that circulate air at 50 cfm on low speed and up to 110 cfm on high are whisper-quiet, the company says. Depending on the model and the speed, the noise level ranges from 0.9 sone to 2.0 sones, the sound of a standard refrigerator. The company designed the fans to be easy to install with adjustable mounting brackets. Energy Star-certified, the fans come with or without lights and with a variety of grille designs. 800.779.4021. [www.aeroflo.com](http://www.aeroflo.com). Circle 185.



# Breathe Easy

NEW FANS DO MORE THAN JUST VENTILATE THE BATHROOM.

A number of leading green building programs have adopted the ASHRAE 62.2 standard that calls for constant air movement throughout an ultra-tight new home. An energy recovery ventilator or a central exhaust system will fulfill this whole-house ventilation requirement, but a single, relatively inexpensive bath fan can do the job—that is, if it's smart enough.

Manufacturers including Broan-NuTone, Panasonic, and Air King have surpassed this whole-home challenge with fans that leave homeowners out of the equation entirely. These units can communicate with each other; know when to cycle 80 cfm and when to drop to 40 cfm; and can factor dew point, occupancy, and humidity into how long and fast to run.

Broan-NuTone's SmartSense technology, for example, ties fans in multiple bathrooms together via wires servicing other systems in the home to share the daily air-exchange requirement and evenly distribute airflow.

"The key is that they all talk to each other," says Pat Nielsen, marketing manager for ventilation fans at Broan-NuTone. "Instead of one running at 60 cfm all the time, these fans will talk to each other and take turns."

When a bather turns a fan on, it remembers how long it ran at a higher cfm and deducts the time from the home's daily requirement. The sister fans then run less throughout the day to avoid over ventilation, says Nielsen.

"It's great for the builder because there is no extra low-voltage wiring to install to get them to communicate," he adds.

Meanwhile, Panasonic's third-generation

WhisperGreen fans exhaust stale air while creating a slight negative pressure to draw fresh air through the house. If the standard calls for continuous 40-cfm airflow, the installer can set it to run constantly at a low speed until its motion sensor detects moisture and boosts the power to 80 cfm. A time delay leaves it running at that level for up to an hour before slowing back down to the pre-set continuous speed.

"You have a fan that can be a whole-house indoor air quality fan but also a bath fan depending if you're in the bathroom," says Jim Shelton, national sales manager for Panasonic. "The homeowner doesn't have to worry 'Did I turn the fan on? Did I not turn it off? Am I using it enough?' The fan does the job for you."

With bath fans running non-stop, energy efficiency and noise level matter more than ever. A DC motor in a WhisperGreen fan draws the energy equivalent of a night light at low speed, according to Panasonic.

To meet green building standards, round-the-clock fans must operate at no louder than 1.0 sone, and some are even quieter. For instance, the AKF100D Deluxe Quiet dual-speed exhaust fan from Air King runs at a barely audible 0.3 sone in continuous mode.

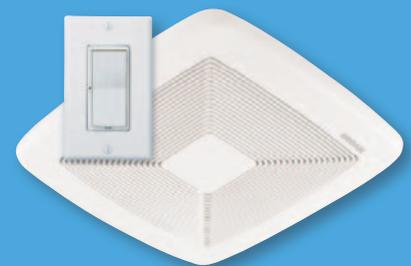
Smart controls and DC-powered technology come at a premium price. But as air quality becomes increasingly important for owners of super-insulated homes, one bathroom fan can free a whole house of off-gassing, formaldehydes, chemicals, and humid air, manufacturers claim.

"More and more you're hearing people say 'Build tight and ventilate right,'" says Shelton.

—Evelyn Royer



**Air King.** The AKF100D Deluxe Quiet dual-speed exhaust fan fulfills whole-house ventilation requirements with two speeds. Energy Star qualified and California Title 24 compliant, the unit includes a 26-watt fluorescent lamp and a 4-watt night light that can be wired separately. The fan operates at 0.3 sone on the low setting and 1.5 sones when running at 100 cfm. 877.304.3785. [www.airkinglimited.com](http://www.airkinglimited.com). Circle 186.



**Broan-NuTone.** Broan Ultra Silent SmartSense bath fans meet ASHRAE 62.2 with patent-pending "smart" technology. When installed in multiple bathrooms, the fans, which communicate over existing wires servicing other systems in the home, manage the airflow needs of the whole house and each bathroom. The fans use 35 watts per cycle compared to the standard 500 watts, the company says. Backed by a three-year warranty, the fans come in 80- and 110-cfm models. 800.558.1711. [www.broan.com](http://www.broan.com). Circle 187.



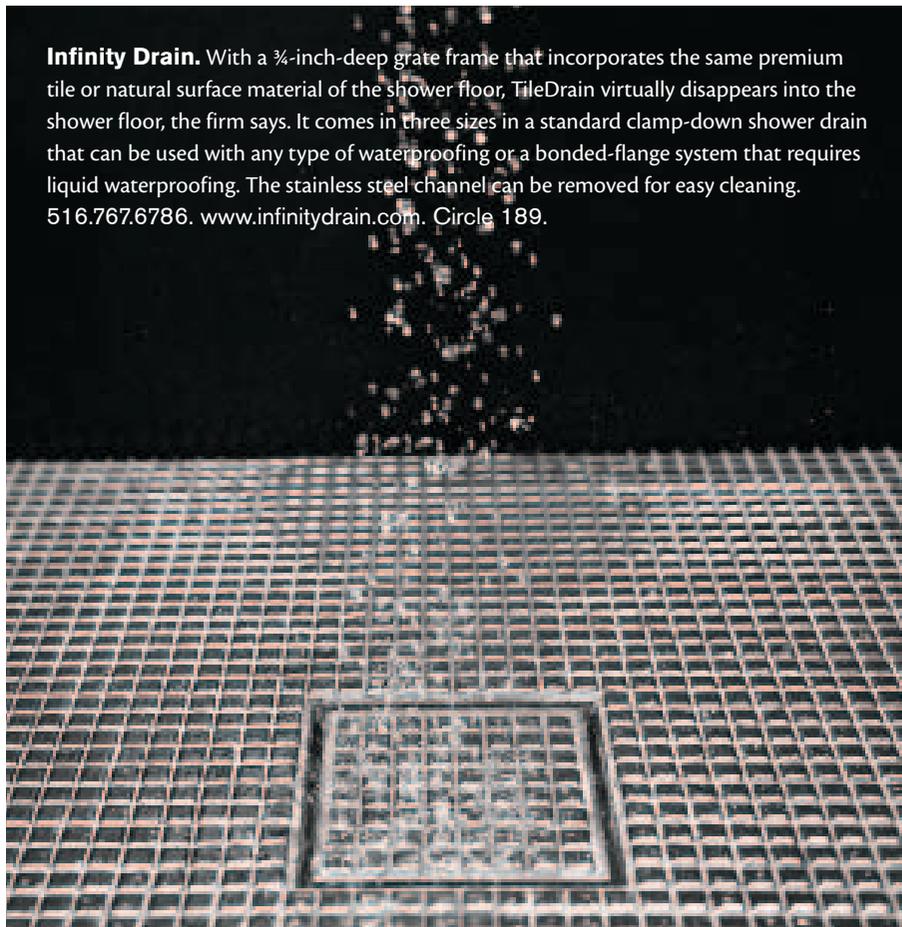
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## WHAT'S NEW

**Mansfield Plumbing.** The builder series Pro-Fit line is expanding with eight new air baths that are more hygienic and gentler than traditional whirlpools as well as less expensive than competitors' air baths, says the company. The products feature between 46 and 58 air channels that provide users with a steady stream of bubbles from a single-speed heated blower. The motor automatically disposes of surplus residue 20 minutes after the bath is turned off. 800.999.1459. [www.mansfieldplumbing.com](http://www.mansfieldplumbing.com). Circle 188.



**Infinity Drain.** With a 3/4-inch-deep grate frame that incorporates the same premium tile or natural surface material of the shower floor, TileDrain virtually disappears into the shower floor, the firm says. It comes in three sizes in a standard clamp-down shower drain that can be used with any type of waterproofing or a bonded-flange system that requires liquid waterproofing. The stainless steel channel can be removed for easy cleaning. 516.767.6786. [www.infinitydrain.com](http://www.infinitydrain.com). Circle 189.



**L.E. Smith Co.** The ONEsplash is a durable endsplash crafted to protect the walls next to a countertop from food and grease splashes while sporting an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

Its functional design, which enhances the profile of a backsplash, is perfect for both kitchen and bath remodeling projects, the maker says.

ONEsplash is available in two designs: classic and round. 888.537.6484. [www.lesmith.com](http://www.lesmith.com). Circle 190.



**Penguin Toilets.** The model 524 toilet has a secondary drain system to guard against overflow and a new elongated bowl design to comply with ADA seat codes; in addition, it is WaterSense listed at 1.28 gpf and received a 1,000 gram MAP score. The vitreous china unit comes standard with the 3-inch Fluidmaster gravity flush valve, and its left hand trip lever is designed for ease of use. 888.600.0320. [www.penguintoilets.com](http://www.penguintoilets.com). Circle 191.



**ForzaStone.** These large-scale, natural stone panels, which are reinforced with dual aluminum backing, weigh only 3 pounds per square foot and are 800% stronger than other stone slabs, says the firm. The panels, available in more than eight standard colors in natural travertine and marble stone, can be custom ordered up to 96 inches by 60 inches. The pre-sealed stone will not fade, discolor, or stain, and its waterproof, groutless nature greatly reduces maintenance. 888.993.6792. [www.forzastone.com](http://www.forzastone.com). Circle 192.



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